

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEMORIAL TO DONALD HECKARD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today with a heavy heart; yet, also with personal pride to pay tribute to a great American, Hoosier, mentor, and friend to many: Donald H. Heckard. Don was born on June 19, 1924, in Cass County, Indiana, and he passed away March 1, 2013.

Countless Hoosier friends marked the passing of an iconic figure who cast a significant influence over Indiana politics and vocational education for nearly a half century. For many of the current generation, Don Heckard was the archetypal Hoosier Republican. Conservative in matters of personal and public finance, Don's key to success was his ability to assess an issue, make good decisions, and apply hard work and dedication to the task at hand. Don spent his entire life as a steward of the land in Noble Township, Cass County and was proud to be called a farmer. He was also the owner operator of Logan City Ice Company for thirty three years. To all those who bought ice bags in central Indiana on a hot summer day, Don was known as "Logan Ice."

With strong beliefs in his community and love of family, Don actively served his church in Logansport, Indiana, as a deacon, trustee, elder and Sunday school teacher. Don was appointed by then Governor Otis Bowen as a State Director and Chairman of the Board of the Ivy Tech Community College. Don presided over a period of dramatic growth and development of the regional campus program.

Gerald Gerry Lamkin, President of Ivy Tech Community College, 1983–2007, in his book, "Building Indiana's Community College: My 40-Year Journey," paid tribute to Don Heckard as follows:

I've written much about Don Heckard of Logansport. Of many exceptional members of the State Board of Trustees, none was better than Heckard. I'm not sure what made him so effective? Perhaps it was that he was a farmer, businessman and politician and good at all of them. (As a district party chair, he sat on the Republican state committee. Political people from across Indiana and the nation sought his advice and still do.) A thoughtful man, he's loyal to friends and associates. He sizes up situations well, consistently makes good decisions, possesses excellent judgment and is unflappable. He doesn't argue for perfection, but does expect effort and effectiveness. These qualities made him an extraordinary trustee.

Don had a deep love for his country and expressed his patriotism by his active involvement in politics. He served as a County Councilman for eleven years, and beginning in the 1970s, as Cass County Republican Chairman, Second and Fifth Congressional District Chairman during the governorships of Otis Bowen and Robert Orr, contributing significantly to their election and to Republican control of the legislature during the period. Don served as a

committed Ford delegate to the GOP National Convention that nominated Gerald Ford for the presidency in 1976, and subsequently served as State Chairman of Farmers for Ford. As a Congressional District chairman, Don served on the Republican State Committee and was a delegate to thirteen Indiana Republican State Conventions. Don was also a mentor and personal advisor to Congressman Steve Buyer for 18 years.

Indiana has a special way to recognize one of the state's favorite sons and daughters by awarding the Sagamore of the Wabash as Indiana's highest citizen award. Don was twice an honoree named Sagamore of the Wabash, once by Governor Otis Bowen and the other by Governor Robert Orr.

Don was a noble businessman, civic and political leader, and devoted family man from what American history has crowned the greatest generation. His principles, work ethic, virtues, and values have left positive impressions to the betterment of others in a manner in which the name of Donald H. Heckard will be forever etched in our National Book of Remembrance.

HONORING THE 192ND ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, today I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in honoring a joyous day for our proud constituents of Greek and Cypriot descent. As an enthusiastic member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I am truly honored to commemorate the 192nd Anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrate the ties that connect our two great democracies in strength and fellowship.

In reflecting on Greece and America's longstanding tradition as friends and allies, we also honor the accomplishments of countless Greek and Cypriot Americans, many of which first immigrated to our country and grew their livelihoods in New York City, a longstanding bastion America's magnificent diversity. I represent the 11th Congressional District of New York and am proud to serve a large and thriving Greek and Cypriot American community. The remarkable cultural festivals thrown by the Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Bay Ridge, or the Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Churches on the West Shore of Staten Island are beloved neighborhood celebrations that are looked forward to by residents of all backgrounds every year. The countless businesses, services, and entrepreneurial endeavors provided by Greek and Cypriot Americans in Staten Island and Brooklyn attest to the strength of, and support for, this thriving community.

Greek Independence Day is an ideal moment for all Americans to contemplate the

roots of our own democratic tradition. It is important to remember that when the Founding Fathers set out to structure our young republic on firm footing, many of the laws and principles were based on the ancient political philosophy of the Greeks. Appreciating the very architecture of the United States Capitol, our Temple of Freedom, or reading through the Constitution reveals the profound impact the culture and history of Greece has had on our modern customs and institutions.

It is with great pride that I rise today to honor the independence of a nation that, for centuries, has championed the very rights it has had the distinct honor and privilege of nurturing into existence: those of liberty and participation in the democratic process. I have come to know first-hand the vibrant cultural heritage Greek and Cypriot Americans offer to local communities in Staten Island and Brooklyn, and I have every confidence that the common bonds between the United States, Cyprus, and Greece shall live on for generations to come.

CHRISTINE COOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christine Cooper for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Christine Cooper is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christine Cooper is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christine Cooper for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 75, final passage of the SKILLS Act on March 15, 2013, it was my intention to vote in support of final passage. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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